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413CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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SUBJECT	Resistance and Unrest	DATE DISTR.	29 April 1955	
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ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC					
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REPC. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 29 Mar. 1955

SUBJECT Resistance and Unrest

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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Distribution of Anti-Régime Leaflets

1.

[REDACTED] To prevent the possibility of any such activity, a strict supervision of reproducing facilities was enforced at the Moravian Electrotechnical Works (MEZ), National Enterprise, in Vsetin (N 49-20, E 18-00). Every time a stencil for a duplicating machine was needed, it had to be registered and returned for safekeeping after use. Old stencils, when used to run off additional copies, also had to be registered and returned for safekeeping. This close supervision of new and old stencils was done by a clerk in charge of the duplicating machine.

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2.

[REDACTED] outside of Vsetin, an anti-régime leaflet. A short time before this incident, [REDACTED] a statement over RFE to the effect that such leaflets were going to be dropped by balloons. The leaflet itself was a piece of white paper measuring approximately 6 x 15 cm. It contained ten demands which the people of Czechoslovakia were urged to present to their government.

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Shortages and Restrictions

3.

[REDACTED] the following government-enforced shortages and restrictions were the cause of considerable dissatisfaction:

- a. Coal. People were unable to buy as much coal as they needed. Only a certain prescribed amount was allowed for each family and even the choice of coal was restricted. [REDACTED] the coal shortage has persisted since 1948.

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- b. **Living Quarters.** Living quarters were difficult to obtain. Due to emphasis on the expansion of heavy industry, the building of new houses was limited. Owners of private apartments had no choice in selection of individuals to whom they could rent their vacant dwelling places. Assignments to vacancies were made by the government "Rent Control" offices. Rents, however, were cheap, but apartment-house owners were losing money, since the rental they were permitted to collect was not sufficient to cover the expense of upkeep and repairs.
- c. **Electricity.** In the winter of 1953, electric current was quite often cut off in various sections of Vsetin for lengths of time ranging from several hours to all day. However, only one section of the town was without electricity at a time.

Mail Censorship

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4.

[redacted] in-coming foreign mail was being checked.

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Difficulties in Changing Employment

5. Difficulties were also encountered in changing places of employment. Whenever an individual desired to work somewhere else, he first had to obtain an official release from his old place of employment. Such releases were not easily obtained. Since each factory had to fulfill a prescribed quota, it was reluctant to release workers for whom a replacement was not certain.

Attitude Toward the Government

6. [redacted] the attitude of the people toward the Communist regime was becoming more and more one of dissatisfaction, particularly after the currency devaluation of June 1953. [redacted] even many Party members who were formerly very active in the Party were becoming disillusioned with the régime. For example, one Andrysek (fnu), an inspector of MEZ products, was a very active member of the Communist Party before the currency devaluation. After this event he refused Party positions and was a Communist only in name.

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Resistance Potential

7. [redacted] if the Allies were to supply the people of Czechoslovakia with weapons, but not back them otherwise, the percentage of the adult population who would openly resist would be as low as 10%, since they still remember well what happened when their country was under the Nazi régime. At that time, possession of weapons by private individuals was punishable by death, without trial. They fear that Communists would take similar measures. If the people were assured the backing of the Allied armies, the figures would rise to 50 - 60% and even higher, if there were evidence of initial success.

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Estimated Resistance Potential in Vsetin

8.

[redacted] about 60% of Vsetin's residents would actively support and/or join approaching Allied Forces after the elimination of known low-level Security Forces agents. This figure would increase to about 80% if local Communist Party leaders and other Security Forces officials were eliminated.

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